

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Original) Use of a natriuretic peptide (ANP or BNP) for the preparation of pharmaceutical compositions for the treatment of short stature in a subject being suspected of having a genetic defect in the SHOX gene.
2. (Original) Use of a natriuretic peptide (ANP or BNP) in combination with a growth protein for the preparation of pharmaceutical compositions for the treatment of short stature in a subject being suspected of having a genetic defect in the human SHOX gene.
3. (Original) Use according to claim 2, wherein said subject is a human subject and said growth hormone is human growth hormone.
4. (Original) Use of a natriuretic peptide (ANP or BNP) and a SHOX protein for the preparation of pharmaceutical compositions for the treatment of short stature in a subject being suspected of having a genetic defect in the human SHOX gene.
5. (Original) Use according to claim 4 wherein said SHOX protein is a SHOX I protein, especially SHOX A protein or SHOX B protein.
6. (Currently Amended) Use according to claims ~~1—5~~ 1 for the preparation of pharmaceutical compositions for stimulating or increasing human growth.

7. (Currently Amended) Use according to ~~claims 1—6~~ 1 for the preparation of pharmaceutical compositions for the treatment of patients with idiopathic short stature, patients with Turner syndrome or patients with Leri-Weill syndrome.

8. (Original) Use of a natriuretic peptide (ANP or BNP) and a SHOX protein for the preparation of pharmaceutical compositions for the treatment of patients with cardiovascular diseases.

9. (Original) Use according to claim 8 wherein the patients are suspected of having a genetic defect in the human growth gene SHOX I.

10. (Original) Use according to claim 9 for the preparation of medicaments for the treatment of patients with idiopathic short stature, patients with Turner syndrome or patients with Leri-Weill syndrome.

11. (Currently Amended) Use according to ~~any of claims 1—10~~ claim 1 wherein the natriuretic peptide is nesiritide.

12. (Original) An article of manufacture comprising packaging material and a pharmaceutical composition comprising a natriuretic peptide (ANP and/or BNP) contained within said packaging material, wherein said pharmaceutical composition

is therapeutically effective for treatment of short stature due to a SHOX gene disorder, and wherein said packaging material comprises a label which indicates that said natriuretic peptide can be administered to a subject with a SHOX gene disorder.

13. (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 12 further comprising a pharmaceutical composition comprising a growth hormone.

14. (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 13 wherein the growth hormone is human growth hormone.

15. (Currently Amended) The article of manufacture of claim 12 —14 further comprising a pharmaceutical composition comprising a SHOX protein.

16. (Original) An article of manufacture comprising packaging material and a pharmaceutical composition comprising a natriuretic peptide (ANP and/or BNP) and a pharmaceutical composition of a SHOX protein contained within said packaging material, wherein said pharmaceutical composition is therapeutically effective for the treatment of cardiovascular diseases, and wherein said packaging material comprises a label which indicates that said natriuretic peptide is effective in treatment of subjects with a SHOX gene disorder.

17. (Currently Amended) Use of a natriuretic peptide (ANP or BNP) according to claims ~~1—7 and 9—11~~ 1, said patients being identified of having a genetic defect in the human growth gene SHOX using a nucleic acid molecule capable of hybridizing to the SHOX gene.